

Yellowstone Master Gardeners

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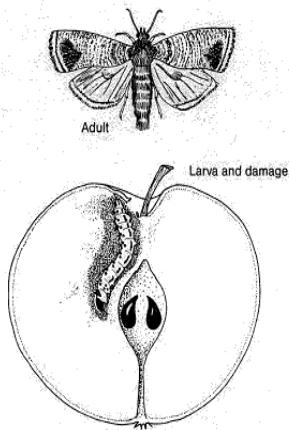
Amy Grandpre *By Bob Wicks*



I had the chance to visit with Amy Grandpre who is this month's featured Master Gardener. Amy started the Master Gardener program in 1994 in Yellowstone County which makes her the Master Gardener with the most longevity in our group. Amy started with the Extension Service in 1978 in Bowling Green, Kentucky, as a secretary. In 1979 Tim, Amy's husband, got a job in Billings. Amy was sad to leave her job because she loved what she did. When she arrived in Billings she went to the Extension Office and asked if they were hiring. Lucky for us they were and they hired her as a secretary. Amy moved over to her current position when John Raney, the county agent at that time, needed help. Amy was raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her parents and a brother are still living there. She also has cousins and high school friends in Tulsa. Amy

is the Master Gardener Coordinator for Yellowstone County. She is also involved in the demonstration garden at Metra and the Yellowstone Master Gardeners Association. She has had gardens in Oklahoma, Kentucky, and here in Montana. She misses the long growing season in Oklahoma which is 2 months longer than we have here. She enjoys square foot gardening and her favorite plant is Lantana. Amy also enjoys collecting bugs and is called the Bug Lady at the Extension office for a good reason. When not working, she enjoys fishing, traveling, and collecting blue cobalt glass. Amy is also a rock hound and enjoys going to the river to look for rocks. She enjoys looking for morel mushrooms. She loves Bollywood movies which are movies that are made in India. Amy lives with her husband Tim and their daughter Ayla, who was named after a character in the book *Clan of the Cave Bear*. Amy's gardening tip is to use a moisture meter in your soil. If you get a chance stop in and say Hi and visit with Amy, I guarantee you will enjoy yourself. I can't thank Amy enough for all she does for our program. Without her guidance we would not be the best MG program in the state! Thanks Amy!!

See Page 4 for upcoming events & volunteer opportunities.



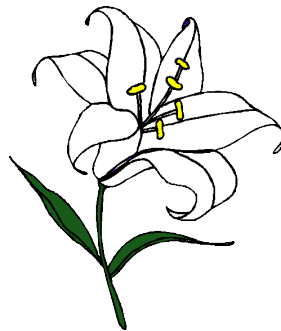
Codling Moth

Moths in Fruit Trees -Submitted by Sheri Kisch

For moths in fruit trees you can make your own trap. Use a 2-liter pop container. Add ½ cup sugar, ½ cup vinegar, and 1 cup water and swish around. Tie a string on the neck and hang in your tree. Please don't use ingredients like pop or juice. It attracts "beneficials" like bees. When full or most of the liquid is gone you can dump it or put the cap on and throw away. I've found that if you leave some dead bodies in the jug and add more ingredients it attracts even more.

I've also seen a milk jug with a hole made in the side, band cap left on, and netting taped or glued on the hole. This trap used the same ingredients as above, but was for a different moth.

**Master Gardeners –Submit
articles and newsletter
suggestions to
ymastergardener@gmail.com
by the 15th of the month,
for the next months
edition**



Easter Lilies by Sharon Wetsch

Now that Easter is over, we all have Easter Lilies to take care of. Here are a few tips to keep them going nicely. First, take the pot cover off as they keep the moisture in and this encourages root rot. They like bright indirect light and no drafts. Ideal temperature for daytime is 60 to 65, with cooler temps at night. As they bloom,

remove the yellow anthers. This will help prolong the bloom and also prevent pollen stains. When the bloom is spent cut it off. Water when the surface is dry to the touch. When your plant is done blooming it can be planted outdoors.

Usually Easter Lilies are anywhere from zone 4 to a zone 9.

Spring is Here...Hopefully by Sharon Wetsch



As the weather gets nicer, we all think of spring and putting in our gardens. First of all, it would be a good idea to take a paper and pencil out to your garden area and make a plan as to what you want to plant and where you want to plant it. Check your last frost date for your area (most are right around the middle of May). Some plants tolerate a

light frost and can be planted early; some examples are peas, onions, Swiss chard, spinach, cabbage, kale, lettuce and beets. Others can be started indoors and transplanted after your last frost date. I found a great website for "Companion Planting" www.rodale.com. This site has a wealth of information. Another great source of info is our own Master Gardener Handbook. A quick review of Chapter 3 will give you a great start to spring

especially for all the newer gardeners. Next, decide what you are going to plant into. Peat pots are nice as the pot can be planted by just pulling off some of the pot and transplanting the whole thing. Pellets work well too especially for the inexperienced gardener. Remember to cut the netting before you plant the pellet. It is best to use a soil free mix to start seedlings. This is a healthier mix for starting plants. If you want to mix your own, a 50-50 peat moss and vermiculite is best. Follow your instructions on the seed package for "How to Plant" instructions. I like to use clear covered plant trays for starting. However, you can use clear plastic wrap to keep the moisture in. Be sure to provide enough light. If your light source is too far away you will have tall, leggy, weak plants that won't do well. Grow your seedlings until they have at least one or two sets of true leaves. They can then be transplanted into the ground or larger containers.

- ☐ Plant potatoes if not done earlier.
- ☐ Till the garden when soil moisture is like brown sugar, not mud ball wet or powdery dry.
- ☐ If you have problems with your garden soil, have a soil test done.
- ☐ If needed amend soil with compost and commercial or organic fertilizer. Don't apply fresh manure in the spring.
- ☐ Start vegetable transplants:

April 1st – tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant, if not previously done.

Mid April – cucumbers, muskmelon, squash and watermelon.

- ☐ Rotate vegetables to different areas of the garden to keep pest down.
- ☐ Heavy pruning is simpler before trees and shrubs leaf out
- ☐ Consider core aerating lawn.
- ☐ Reseed bare patches, or seed a new lawn.
- ☐ Make sure your lawn mower is serviced and ready to go, with sharp blades that cut cleanly rather than tearing tender new growth.
- ☐ Cut back dead canes on T-roses.
- ☐ Ideal time to plant, divide, or transplant perennial flowers.

*You can bury a lot of troubles
digging in the dirt (soil).*

Joan Moving to Colorado

Joan McKeown, who has been a Master Gardener since 2009, will be moving to the Denver area at the end of this month, to live closer to her son and his family. She moved to Billings seven years ago from Florida and has been a very dedicated and active Master Gardener. “I have enjoyed the Master Gardeners Program immensely and will miss the friendships I have developed”, Joan said. She will be dearly missed. We wish her well on her new adventure.

**There is some very interesting
info on the following websites:**

- * www.JerryBaker.com
- * www.rodale.com
- * www.organicgardening.com

*“If you think you can or if you think you can’t—your right.
-Henry Ford*



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Best wishes to these
Master Gardeners with
April Birthdays!

Mary McLane –2nd
Vi Hills – 6th

If you haven't gotten your
birth dates in to Amy,
please do so. (Lots of
blanks still!) Just a nice
connection for us to
honor Master Gardeners
in our newsletter.



April Happenings

Level 2 classes

- ⇒ April 9th (Monday 6:30-8:30)
- ⇒ April 13th (Friday 2-4 PM)

Special K Dinner – April 10th, open at 5:00 dinner at 6:00

First Tour of Year

- ⇒ April 21 (Saturday –10:00) - see details below

Arbor Day Help Wanted – Sign up with Tom Sawyer or Amy G.

Project Leaders –submit future volunteer opportunities, times, and dates so they can be published in our newsletter.

Which hand pruner do I use?

Anvil – has a sharp blade and a fixed non-cutting surface, the anvil. It is used for dead stems and smaller woody stems.

Bypass – cut with a scissor action. It is used for green woody stems and branches for a clean cut.

.by Sheri Kisch



April 21, 2011 - First Tour of the Year

- ⇒ Meet at Rocky Mountain Composting at 10 AM (RMC is in Lockwood; turn left on Johnson Lane then head toward the river go across the railroad tracks and follow the signs. It is well marked).
- ⇒ We will then head to "The Garden Center" in the Heights. (This greenhouse is on the right side of the road several blocks past Wal-Mart. The address is 2121 Main St in the Heights. It will be marked.)
- ⇒ Refreshments at the greenhouse after the tour.

Project Leaders:

Be sure and contact those on your project lists regarding times and tasks that are coming up. Making up a Distribution List or group mailing list with those on the project list is a great, fast way to get the job done....don't, however, forget those that don't have email, to call or go postal! Last year had several complains about never being contacted to volunteer....don't want that to be an issue! -Amy G